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Location: **Olinda, BRAZIL**

Mission: **Church-based community development and evangelism**



My internet connection has been on and off over the past month due to continued theft of cables in the area. You never know when it is going to crash, although walking the dog early in the morning and smelling the burning rubber and seeing the smoke at the bottom of my street I had a fair idea that someone's cables had been cut for the copper!

The all-day training event at a Compassion International Project three hours drive away in the interior which was planned for May, has been postponed to 7 June as some towns in the interior where suddenly put on further lockdown restrictions until the end of May as the number of cases of Covid there was increasing rapidly.

As a country the virus situation is still serious. Pernambuco state where I live has over 15,000 deaths due to the virus and at the moment daily cases are over 3,000.

Last weekend we had a training session in Peixinhos for the Good News Club volunteers looking at the next booklets on Pilgrims Progress, which went well, with everyone trying to keep to the social distancing and wearing of mask rules as best they could (a very hard thing for Brazilians to do). This year our evangelistic activities around St John the Baptist day celebrations will have as our theme; John 1:29 "The next day he (John) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" We are busy putting together soap packages for the families with a simple devotional material on how soap and alcohol gel hopefully takes away/gets rid of the virus, but how the problem of getting rid of our sin is much more serious than that of the virus and yet we can know for definite that Jesus is the only one who is able to take

away our sins and so we need to turn to him in repentance and faith. We also hope to give a parcel of different foods made from corn for the families to organise and plan their own "Family Party" and afterwards share on their activities on WhatsApp. At this time of year, corn is harvested in the interior and hence is very popular. Normally we organised an evangelistic street party for the whole community with popcorn, corn cake, corn on the cob roasted, corn soup etc. This time we are giving them all the ingredients to have their own family party, so it should be fun to see how they get on.

The volunteers were really encouraged by the Good News Club families who completed the devotional booklets some of whom had really taken all the activities very seriously. The families who completed the booklets were encouraged by receiving a cleaning kit which was also used to motivate those who hadn't as they missed out on getting the kits! The theme of the first two booklets had been the Bible (the book that Christian in 'Pilgrim's Progress' is carrying) and one of our 7 year olds had even made his own mini-Bible of cartoon drawings.

Prayer points

- Give thanks for my personal health and safety and continue to pray for Brazil with 16.1 million cases, 450,000 deaths so far and a slow vaccine roll-out. Due to ongoing corruption we have even had cases of entire families jumping the queues to get the vaccines as they knew the staff at the vaccine posts who let them through. Unfortunately others on registered priority lists are still waiting!
- Pray for the training day in the interior and for safety in getting there and back again and that there won't be any unexpected horses or cows on the roads as sometimes is the case! Pray for the volunteers at this project as we look at our "Heavenly Vision" and how we can use the 'St. John the Baptist season' in evangelism strategies.
- Continue to pray for the Pastor of Beberibe together with his wife as they continue to recover from Covid.